IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

Dated:- 25.09.2006

Coram:-

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.SATHASIVAM

and

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.TAMILVANAN

Habeas Corpus Petition No.716 of 2006

Babu ... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The District Collector and
District Magistrate,
Kancheepuram District,
Kancheepuram.

2.The Secretary to Government,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai-9. .. Respondents

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for the issuance of a Writ of Habeas Corpus to call for the records of the first respondent herein concerned in B.D.F.G.I.S.V.No.23 of 2006 dated 27.6.2006 and set aside the order of detention passed against the detenu by name Babu S/o Chellan now detained in Central Prison, Chennai and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.T.R.Ravi
For Respondents : Mr.M.Babu Muthu Meeran
Addl. Public Prosecutor

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O R D E R

(Order of the Court was made by P.SATHASIVAM,J.)

The petitioner by name Babu, who is detained as a ''Bootlegger" as contemplated under Section 3(1) of the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug Offenders, Forest Offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Slum Grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982), by the impugned detention order dated 27.06.2006, challenges the same in this Petition.

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2. Heard learned counsel for the petitioner as well as learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondents.

3. At the foremost, learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that there is enormous delay in disposal of the representation of the detenu, which vitiates the ultimate order of detention. With reference to the above claim, learned Additional Public Prosecutor has placed the details, which show that the representation of the detenu dated 28.07.2006 was received by the Government on 31.07.2006 and remarks were called for on 01.08.2006 and the remarks were received by the Government on 07.08.2006 and the File was submitted on 08.08.2006 and the same was dealt with by the Under Secretary on the same day i.e on 08.08.2006 and by the Deputy Secretary on 09.08.2006 and finally, the Minister for Revenue and Law passed orders on 11.08.2006. The rejection letter was prepared on 18.08.2006 and the same was sent to the detenu on the same day i.e. on 18.08.2006 and served to him on 19.08.2006. As rightly pointed out by the learned counsel for the petitioner, though the Minister for Revenue and Law passed an order on 11.08.2006, there is no explanation at all for taking time for preparation of rejection letter till 18.08.2006. In the absence of any explanation by the person concerned even after excluding the intervening holidays, we are of the view that the time taken for preparation of rejection letter is on the higher side and we hold that the said delay has prejudiced the detenu in disposal of his representation. On this ground, we quash the impugned order of detention.

4. Accordingly, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the impugned order of detention is set aside. The detenu is directed to be set at liberty forthwith from the custody unless he is required in some other case or cause.

Sd/-
Asst. Registrar.

/true copy/

Sub Asst. Registrar.

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To

1. The Secretary to Government,
State of Tamil Nadu, Prohibition
and Excise Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai-600 009.

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2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Kancheepuram District,
Kancheepuram.

3. The Superintendent,
Central Prison, Chennai.
(In duplicate for communication to detenu)

4. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law and Order)
Fort St. George, Chennai-9.

5. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

HCP. No.716 of 2006

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